May 1996
$1.50

Eagle Point Historical Museum

Courtesy Southern Oregon Historical Society # 773

Indian Jennie in her burial robe

Cover Story Indian Jennie in her burial robe.

Indian Jennie, a Rogue River Indian, was well-known in the valley. *The Democratic Times* May 19, 1893, told of Jennie's death. "Last of the famous tribe of Rogue Rivers, died here last Sunday evening after a protracted illness, aged about 65 years. Old Jennie, it will be remembered anticipating her death, prepared with her own hands, in the most costly and elaborate manner, her burial robe, the material of which is buckskin, handsomely ornamented with many colored beads, sea shells, Indian money, beautiful transparent pebbles, etc., the whole weighing nearly 50 pounds.

"This death closes the last act in the sad drama of an historic tribe, than which no braver or more determined ever confronted and fell before the superior forces of civilization. Old Jennie was laid to rest in her burial robe Sunday evening."

Other articles appeared on the death of Jennie. "The death of old Jenny, the last relic of the Indian war days in this valley, at this place last Sunday removed a historic figure, and one with whose death expires the last of a brave race of Indians and one which for years withstood the encroachments of the Caucasians with some degree of success. The old woman has been engaged for many months in the preparation of her burial robe—being the daughter of a chief and entitled to high honors in the burial rite—because there were none left of her tribe to perform the office for her. The robe was of the regulation buckskin type, gayly decked and bedizened with beads, small coins and other ornaments, and the last of the Mohicans was enshrouded in it when lying down to her long repose.

Much interest has been taken in her elaborate preparation for royal interment for months past by curious and interested spectator, and it was on the cards to buy her burial robe from her to exhibit at the world Fair in Chicago. But the old woman refused all offers of coin for the robe, and sleeps in it today on the hill-top.

There was something extremely pathetic in the sole survivor thus respecting the tradition of her tribe in making such elaborate preparations for her interment as the last of the royal line. Let her remains rest in peace. (From Settling The Rogue Valley, The Tough times, The Forgotten People by Barbara Morehouse Hegne

James Fryer settled his Donation Land Claim on Little Butte Creek July 18, 1853. He lived in the area the rest of his life except for three years he spent on the coast. The Eagle Point Historical has a copy of his journal written every day from January, 1867 until he died in September 1912. He told of many daily events and documented burials, weather, crops, bridges and the progress of Eagle Point. Here are some entries from his journal (copied exactly).

Jan. 21, 1867 "rained all night & till noon today the creek was very high. I can't get to the bridge tonight John Young, Long Charley, Mr. Matney was [hear] to dinner & Matney will stay all night..."

Oct. 1880 "...a fine day, started early & come over C. Lake road, then I tied up horses & took Barney & rode to Crater Lake. A grand sight never to be forgoten, then [com] to Union Creek..."

June 1876 "Awful hot, so hot it melted the honey in the hives.."

July 1876 "Come by old ford, the old bridge has fell down it fell about the first of July.

Sept 1876 "Simpson & I went up to select a place for a Catholic Church." "....made out a deed for an acre of land for the Catholic Church.."

Oct. 27, 1876 (The Catholic Church was dedicated & named Saint Frances).

Editor, Barbara Hegne

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Excerpts from the Newspapers.

Jackson County 1862 Marriages and divorces.

"There has been twenty-eight marriages in this county during the last year. The county was organized in 1853, since which time there have been one hundred and eighty-eight marriages recorded; or, in other words there has been, since the organization of the county, one hundred and eighty-eight offers made that were accepted. The number of unaccepted offers made are variously estimated at from 2,000 to 5,000. There have been only six divorces granted by the courts during the year. There are other cases pending, however."

October 14, 1907 (Eagle Point)

Arthur Robinson, Nye Turpin, Harry Campbell, Merritt Brown, fined $10. Gambling playing Hokey Pokey with cards, for checks, each check being representative of value and redeemable with money.

November 9, 1892, (Lake Creek).

"On last Monday, some of the sporting class met at the Lake Creek race course on Little Butte to try the speed of some of the local race horses, to run 600 yards and repeat, for a purse of $13.50. The following entries were made: 1st, Indian, belonging to Dick Slinger; 2nd, Lake Creek Baldy, belonging to James Culbertson; 3rd, Dude, belonging to Dan Simon of Eagle Point."

"At the word they all started well, and Indian began to lead off winning the first heat by a short distance. But the bystanders thought that if Dan Simon had not pulled so hard on the reins that Dude would have come out ahead. The second heat Dude won by a short distance, and then they blanketed him and sent him down the track in order to have time to make some bets. But it was no go although Dude's friends offered to wager $30 to $10 still, they could not find any of the friends of Indian or Lake Creek Baldy to take the bet, for they discovered that Dude was like "The Tinner's Jule"—a regular singed cat. Dude won the third heat easily. So you see we have some fast horses at Eagle Point, as well as slow politicians."

Newsy Tid Bits and Making Progress

*We will be publishing a photograph and caption in the *Medford Mail Tribune* BACK IN TIME column. We will alternate with Southern Oregon Historical Soceity. Watch for our own local photos every other Tuesday.

*After the Applegate Trail event is over, we will be putting a display in the Medford Courthouse on the main floor.

*The Rogue Valley Mall has agreed to let us put a display in the mall October and December.

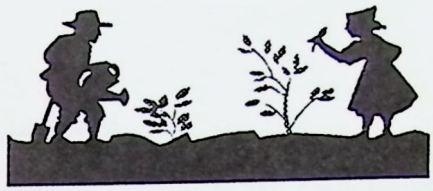
*The Eagle Point Historical Society, in community interest, has copied and given to Wayne Brown of the Eagle Thrift Market, 44 old time photographs of buildings around town. These large 11 1/2 X 17 photos hanging on the wall, have created a lot of comment and interest. The next plan is to put smaller snaps on display so everyone can see them up close.

* We have also contributed several bridge photos that are gracing the walls of the Bridge House Deli. There seems to be a re-newed interest in our local history.

*Our old 1883 Edison phonograph "conked" out last week. Wayne Jackson, the man who donated the Edison in the first place, came to the rescue. He carried it out (with help) and had it fixed. Now everything is working and we can dance to "When you and I were Young Maggie Dear" again.

*Two display cases are in the works. One large locked display will house our books, journals, ledgers and research books. The other case will be a base to support our merchandise case that came out of the old New York Store built in 1906 and operated by George Daley. The store was located on S. Shasta near the church parking lot.

* Curator, Barbara Hegne, finished the class "Museum Principals" offered by the college and SOHS. She passed with flying colors and got some excellent ideas on cataloging and preservation.



Carol Reynolds, Dorothy McDougall, and Helen Wolgamott re-planted flowers in our front flower bed. Helen went to the Eagle Point High School plant sale and Mike Boles, instructor of the Horticulture class, told her she could take as many plants as she needed for the museum. Helen brought back a variety of beautiful plants. Don Reynolds cut the lawn a block long. We thank everyone involved in this beautifying project.

Historical Fund Allocations for 1997

Southern Oregon Historical Society receives 75% of estimated current year tax proceeds and all prior year tax proceeds. All other societies, seeking funds for any purpose, must qualify for 12 1/2 % of the estimated current year tax proceeds.

1997 Recommendations:

Camp White H. Assoc.	$63,960.00
Gold Hill H.S.	$48,676.00
Eagle Point H.S.	$37,575.00
Big Butte H.S.	$37,400.00
Talent H.S.	$28,658.00
Lake Creek H.S.	$24,661.00
Woodville Museum	$6,000.00

All the societies and historic organizations are trying to preserve our rich history. This year two new societies have blossomed (Camp White and Talent).

The Eagle Point Historical Society & Museum is planning their 47 foot addition this summer.

Make an effort to visit each and every society and museum to see the wonderful things they are accomplishing. If possible, offer to donated some time to their efforts, they all could use help.

1911, Wagon Trip To Crater Lake Took several Days.

A trip to see beautiful Crater Lake in the early 1900's took four to five days in a heavy wagon one way. And if you took your time, it could take up to two weeks. When you arrived you might be surprised to find snow, even in late July and August.

The old Medford-Crater Lake road was slightly different than the present paved highway. The old dirt road hugged the river and had more curves and steep uphills to conquer.

In 1911, a group of 10 local people made the long trip to Crater Lake. Among the travelers was Josephine Holmes, an Eagle Point school teacher.

The trip took 17 days and the group didn't meet a car on the entire trip. They traveled by wagon, some rode horses, and some walked along side of the wagon.

Josephine Holmes rode her horse all the way to Crater Lake. They camped at Elk Creek near the old fish hatchery and near the natural bridge. They forded Union Creek on the way.

The group met several freight wagons and the freighter often helped the party up steep grades. At times there was no passing room and the wagons had to help each other.

When the group reached the base of Crater Lake rim, they found a small "horse-pin" road that had been hewed out of the rim up to the top. They found the road was so hazardous that they had to cut down lodgepole trees and use them in lifting the rear of the wagons around the curves.

After arriving at the lake, they climbed down to the water's edge. In the early days there was no path. The group found a row boat and took it across to Wizard island. On the way over the boat sprung a leak and they had to bail water to get back to shore safely.

Resources, Medford Mail Tribune Dec. 6, 1953 & Interview with Holmes family.

Pictured are members of a 1911 wagon trip to Crater Lake as they are just leaving camp at the "Hole in the Ground" en route. Ten persons made the trip which lasted 17 days. The wagon pictured belonged to Myron Root. Mrs. Root can be seen astride the white-faced pony at right and Josephine Riley Holmes, Eagle Point, on the horse, second from left.

Middle: Taking a rest. Bottom photo shows Josephine Riley Holmes combing her long hair.

Table Rocks
Ancient Ecological Islands
by Carole Nielson

Appeared in *Northwest Parks & Wildlife*-June/July 1993

Once considered sacred ground by the Takelma{Rogue} Indians,Upper and Lower Table Rocks are two of the most prominent landmarks in the Southern Oregon valley named for the river French trappers called the Rogue. Panoramic vistas, the chance to observe a wild variety of wildlife, and the opportunity to see a wildflower found no place else in the world await the hiker willing to make the climb to the top of either of these two extraordinary plateaus.

Because of their unique flora and fauna, as well as their fragile ecosystems, a 2,082 acre area of both upper and Lower Table Rocks has been cooperatively managed by the Nature Conservancy and the Medford District of the Bureau of Land Management since 1980.

Last spring, as my husband, Dan, and I rounded the last switch-back in the trail leading to the summit of Upper Table Rock, we were congratulating ourselves on the fact that a couple of "middle-agers" like us were still able to made the trek-that is until we met an elderly couple already enjoying the view from the top. After a get-acquainted chat, during which we learned the Karl and Anne Hanson, ages 80 and 78, have climbed mountains from South America to Alaska, we sat down on a comfortable rock and joined them in surveying the scene. A patchwork of fields and orchards laced by the silver ribbon of the Rogue River and framed by the distant blue Siskiyous to the south and the snowy buttes of the Cascades, dominated by the cone of Mt. McLoughlin, to the east stretched before us. Miniature seas of yellow buttercups and goldfields, white popcorn flowers and purple lupine ripple in the breeze across the plateau. Several turkey vultures circled lazily catching thermals rising from the rocks and a small herd of deer blended into the grey buckbrush on which they were browsing.

The Table Rocks were formed some 9.6 million years ago when lava flowed from a fissure in the nearby Cascades, according to Gerry Capps, geologist for the Bureau of Land Management. The lava filled a prehistoric river canyon, overflowing the canyon rims in places. Eons of erosion removed the softer rock of the canyon wells, leaving the remnants of this ancient lava flow in the form of the two isolated mesas standing 800 feet above the valley floor. Each is approximately one mile wide and two miles long, capped with a 125-foot thick layer of basalt. Their almost perfectly flat tops and sheer vertical cliff faces causes the Table Rocks to stand out in sharp contrast to the rolling hills skirting the Rogue Valley.

Takelma means "people living along the river." For centuries the Upland Takelma inhabited villages scattered along the serpentine route of the Rogue where it winds its way in a semi-circle around the southern end of both Table Rocks. The Table Rocks played an important role in the physical and spiritual life of these people. Many Takelma legends were centered around these landmark. Women of the tribe journeyed there to dig camas bulbs and harvest acorns, both staples in the indigenous diet. Disguised in antlered headdresses, Takelma braves stalked blacktail deer which found year-round forage on the chaparral and wild lilac growing on the lower slopes of the mesas. The cliffs and lava flows on the Table Rocks provided natural fortification, and in times of trouble the Takelma took refuge there as Chief Sam's band did during the Rogue Indian Wars.

An historical marker commemorates the September 10, 1853, meeting between several Takelma chiefs and troops of the United States Army, led by General Joseph Lane, which took place on the eastern flank of Lower Table Rock. At that time the Indians agreed to live on a reservation encompassing both Table Rocks. Another plaque tells about Ft. Lane which was built near the southern end of Lower Table Rock in a futile attempt to keep the peace.

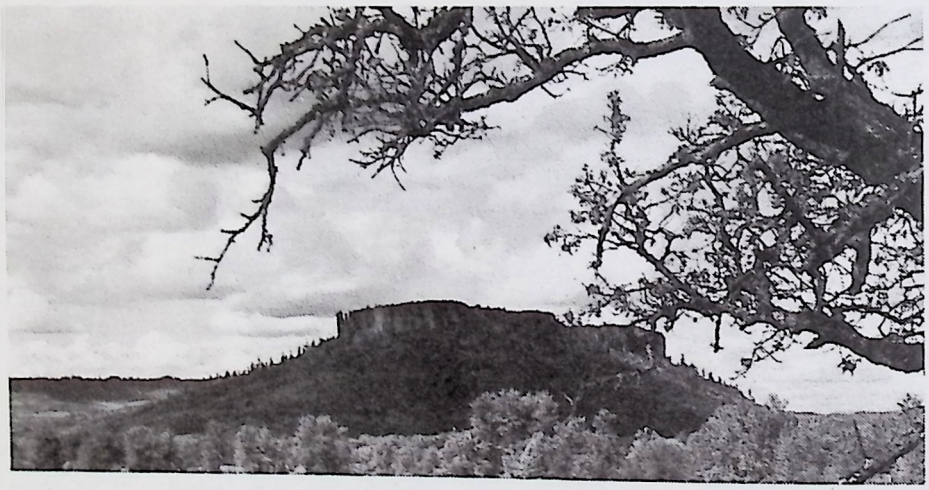
The Table Rocks mark the northernmost range of the bluegrey gnatcatcher. They are home to the dusky footed woodrat, California vole, valley pocket gopher, acorn woodpecker, and violet green swallow. Red-tailed hawks and an occasional golden eagle soar overhead. Harrier hawks can be seen hovering over the grasses, periodically plunging to catch an unwary rodent.The rufous-sided towhee can be heard scratching for insects, and the brilliant blue scrab jay scolds intruders.

Mid-March through May marks the height of the wildflower season and few places offer more variety than found on the Table Rocks. Indian paintbrush, camas, fuzzy cat's ears, blue-eyed Marys and larkspur add splashes of color to the open grassy areas and oak savannas. Playing hide and seek beneath the shade of Douglas firs, madrones, mount mahogany and ponderosa pines are delicate woodland stars, lavender lamb's tongues and honeysuckle. The air is fragrant with the blossoms of buckbrush, used by the Takelma for soap and shampoo, and manzanita, the berries of which were brewed and drunk for medicinal purposes by the Indian. Ringing the edges of vernal pools, and carpeting their floors as the water recedes is the dwarf wooly meadowfoam, a rare flower found only on top of the two Table Rocks.

Since the Table Rocks were taken from the Takelma people in the 1850's, their fragile environment has often been disrupted. Some native plant population which were wiped out by over grazing are being re-introduced. Darren Borgias, of the Nature-Conservancy, says that suppression of fires has also altered the ecosystem. The Takelma set fires as a means of controlling brush, and evidence of its use can still be seen.

No longer do buckskin-clad women wearing basket caps search for camas bulbs with their fire-hardened, mountain mahogany digging sticks. Never again will a young Takelma brave climb the Table Rocks on his vision quest; and the shouts of children playing shinny have long ago faded on the wind. The people who dwelt along the river, the Takelma, are gone forever, However, thanks to efforts of the BLM and the Nature Conservancy, steps are being taken toward restoring the Table Rocks to their former state, the way they were when the Takelma considered them sacred ground.

Here is a photo the the Takelma (Rogue River) Indians. The photo was taken in the late 1890's by Amos Voorhies, publisher of the *Daily Courier* Grants Pass. Photo of John Bradford, a member of Chief John's band, seated with his family. His squaw is far left, and between them, her aged mother. At right is a Crescent City Indian woman, identified as such by her peculiar round headdress and the pattern design in the basket she is making. Overhead the racks hold fish which they were drying for their winter needs. Taken near the mouth of the Rogue River.



Lower Table Rock

Note: Carole Nielson's book of short stories is on sale at the Eagle Point Museum gift shop and at Terry's Greatway Market at Shady Cove.

The Big Sticky and The Agate Desert

The Agate Desert includes the land south of the Rogue River to White City. The Indians originally named the area "Sticky" because the soil clung in gluey clumps to moccasins and horses hoofs.

The area was also called "The Agate Desert" because of the abundance of the mineral found there.

The district was known as "Mound" because of the low mound in the area (found on Gramercy Drive). The first "Mound" schoolhouse was located near this mound. In 1896, the community was split over the idea to move the schoolhouse to the center of the district to better serve the children. This new location was near the junction of todays Antelope & Table Rock roads. Moving the schoolhouse caused so much contention, the school teacher, Miss Lulu Roberts, resigned her position and took a job in Sams Valley.

Camas Root

*The Camas Root grew abundantly on the Big Sticky area. The technical name is Camas-Camassia quamash (Pursh) Corille.

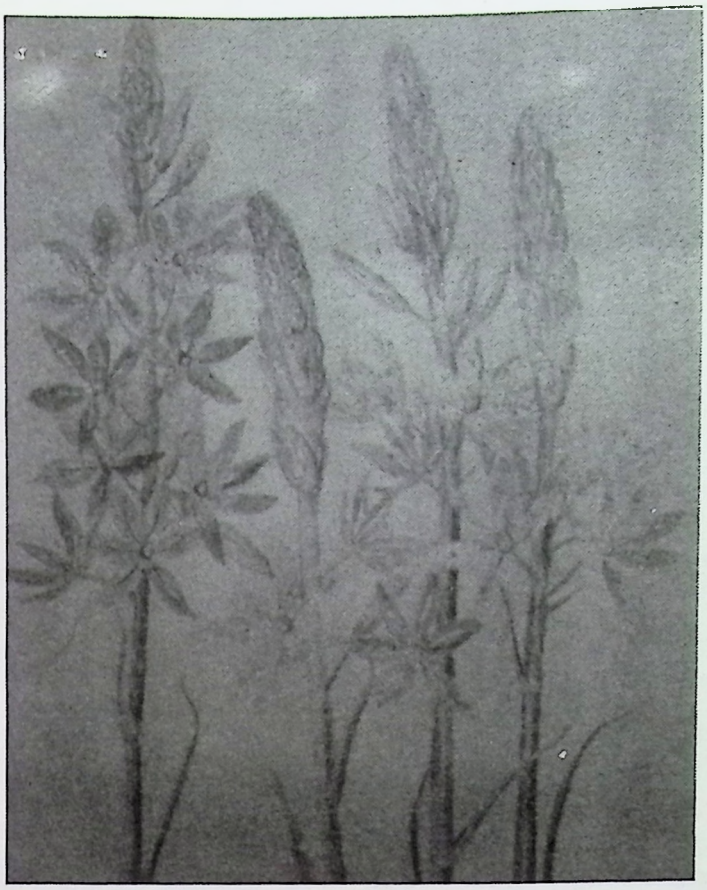
The Flower is light and dark blue or white buds tinged with turquoise and purple stripes. The root is a deep seated coated bulb which resembles an onion. The leaves are basal.

The camas root was a favorite food of the Rogue Indians.To prepare it, they dug a hole in the ground and lined it with stones. They put the camas in, built a red hot fire, and baked it. Then, the fire was raked out and a certain grass was laid on top and covered with a tule sack and dirt.

The fire was kept burning two nights and a day without disturbing or poking the pit. Only the most experienced tribe women were trusted with the camas preparing.

Camas bulbs were crushed in a mortar, stewed, then made into pies which tasted like pumpkin. The Indians also boiled the bulbs in water and made molasses for festivals.

There is a camas called "Death Camas" which is very poisonous to people and animals.



The camas flowers look similar except the poisonous one are yellowish white and much smaller.

The camas root was the Western Indians most important food and it often saved the lives of many early explorers. It ranks high in Indian tradition and mystical tales. Camas fields were valuable tribal property. Wars were caused by trespass of the white people. The Nez perce War was caused by the white people plowing up the Indian's camas. *Information and painting by Elizabeth Edmondson. She painted over 100 Oregon wild flowers. The Eagle Point Museum has one of her paintings on display. Emogene Abbott of Butte Falls, Ore. is her daughter.

The Indians used to dig the camas root on the Agate Desert. In 1853, George Cole got permission from the Indians to settle on land about 2 1/2 miles southeast of the confluence of the Rogue River and Little Butte Creek. Cole made a treaty with an Indian chief named Chief John and paid him for use of the land. Cole was allowed to cut the hay and let the hogs dig the Indian camas for food. When Cole's partner, Major Lupton, filed a Donation Land Claim on the land, he refused to pay the Indians. Lupton did not like Indians, and he was the main instigator of the 1855 war.

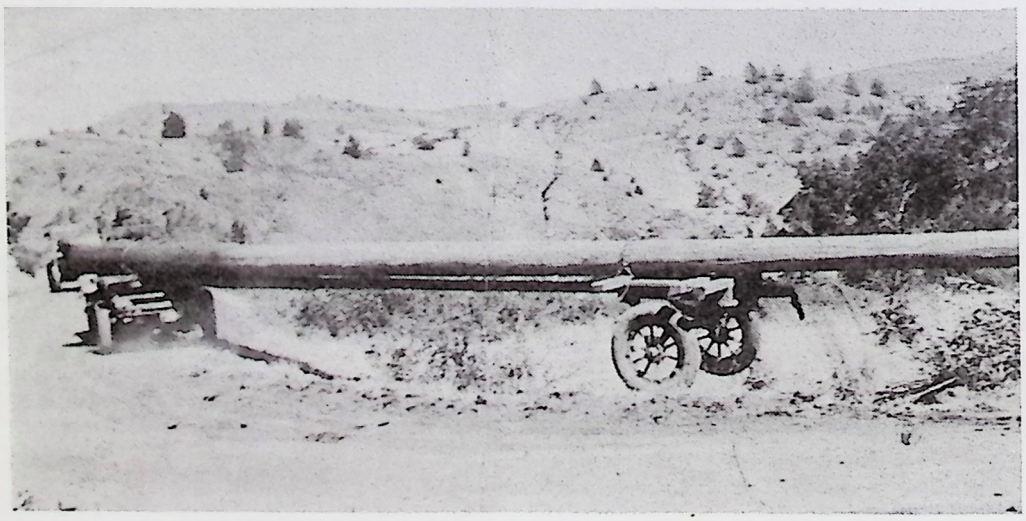
A few camas blooms can still be seen east of Camp White along Villas Road to Hwy. 62

Pictures From The Past

Photos courtesy Joan Holmes Redmond

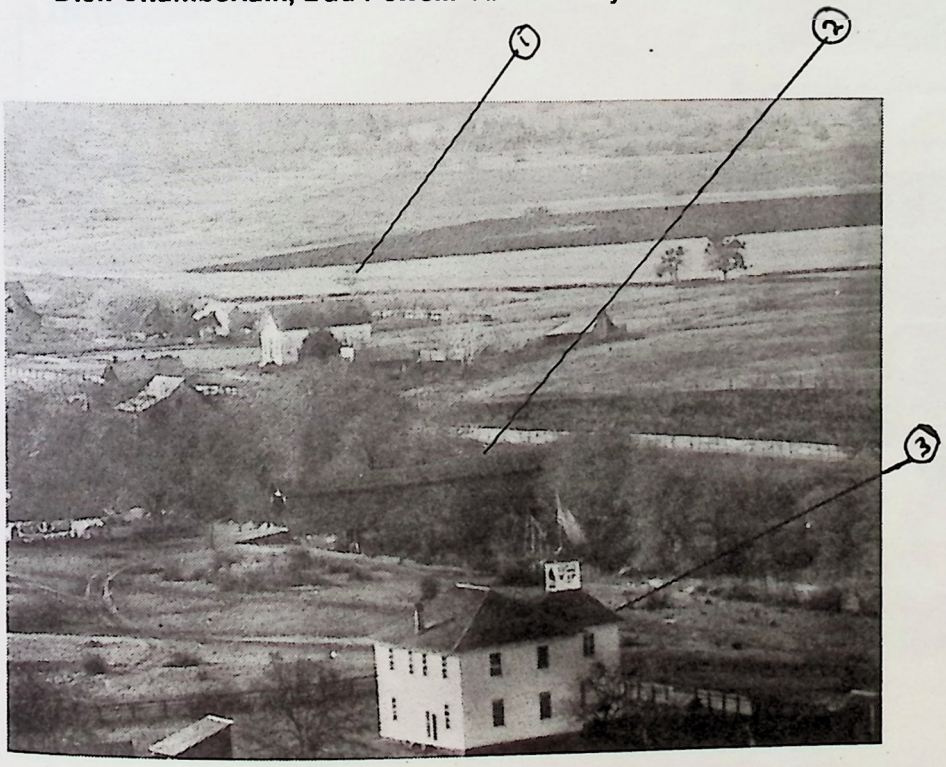
Top: Building the COPCO power light plant at Prospect around 1930.

Old Riley Home on Riley Road. The road was named after early pioneers Thomas and Sarah Hurst Riley. Sarah Hurst was born in 1859 at the mining town of Sterling. Thomas Riley came west in 1877, on horseback. The couple was married in 1882. The Riley home was built in 1890 from lumber cut at Climax. Thomas hauled the load to Jacksonville, where the lumber was planed, then he brought it to the farm, a distance of about 60 miles.



Eagle Point logger, George Holmes, hauling a long log on his rig at Fort Klamath around 1928

Eagle Point First & Second Graders, 1940-41:
Back Row: Left to Right: Mrs. Edith Thornton, Wayne Arnes, June Carnes, Juanita (Ragsdale) Flores, Anna (Carlson) Zander, Charlene Carmean, Ruth Powell, Douglas Galbreath, Don Purcell.
Front Row: Left to Right: Richard?, Dale Overdick, Ted Greb, Johnny Atkins, Don Force, Bob Kimmel, Dick Chamberlain, Bud Powell. Photo courtesy Anna Zander



An early photograph of Eagle Point taken around 1900. Notice the old covered bridge (built , first one 1871, second in 1880). The Catholic Church was built in Oct. 1876. The school was completed in Oct. 1899.

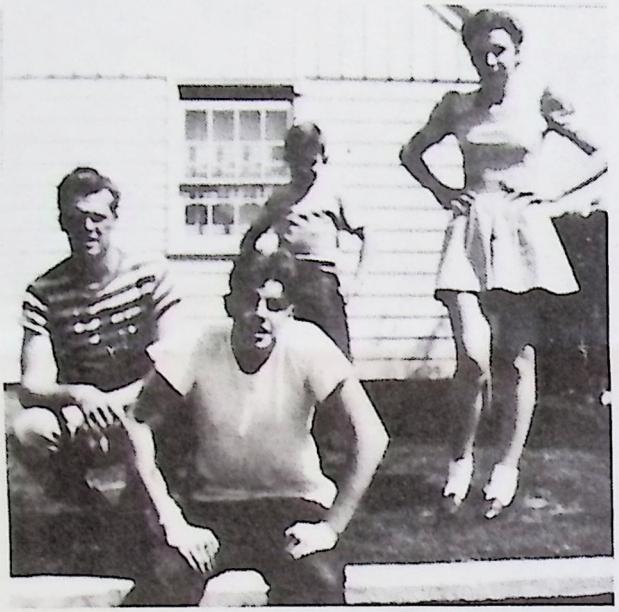
This is taken from an old post card belonging to member Dean Higinbotham.

1. Catholic Church

2. Covered Bridge

3. School

More Pictures of Interest



Early photo of the Butte Falls Grade School. The school is visiable on the right. The building center was used as a play area and even a dance or two.

Photo courtesy member Dean Higinbotham

Mystery Photo

Who are these people? One is a movie and television personality.

See answer page 11

The annual Eagle Point old-timer's class reunion was held in March at Hometown Buffet. It was a tremendous success with over 110 attending. All people interested in atending are invited to this great function every year. To get on the mailing list call Helen Wolgamott at 830-4049

⇦

Welcome

New members to welcome are: Robert & Bette Jean Bertram, Dave & Dorothy Clover, Julie Lee, Lois Gildesgard, Margaret Henry, Laura McFall, Wm. Myers, Hazle Simmons Onita Simmons, Gordon Jesse & Bea Walker, Lester & Lois West, Zella Wright.

Please help us keep our membership up and active. Our annual Membership drive will be scheduled during the next month.

Teens $5.00
Single $7.50
Husband & Wife $12.50 (this is a slight increase $2.50 over last year)
Business $10.00
Lifetime $100

Volunteers Needed

We could like to keep the museum open every day this summer. If you can donate an hour or two this summer, please call Barbara Hegne 826-9725

Mystery Photo:

Left to right: Kevin Hagen (played "Doc" on "Little House on the Prairie"), John Hagen (no relation) and Harriet Hagen (Chamberlain). Boy in back is unknown. They all attended Jefferson High School in Portland where this photo was taken in 1945.

Photo Courtesy Harriet Hagen Chamberlain

Meetings

Join us in planning the Historical Futue of Eagle Point. The Eagle Point Historical Society & Museum holds its regular meetings the second Monday of each month at 7PM. The public is invited. After each meeting, refreshments are served. For further information call 826-4166.

Our Visitors

The Moonlight history Stroll during the evening hours at the museum was very successful with an attendance of 98 visitors

The museum toured another school group of 2nd graders from the Glen D. Hale School. Twenty-eight students participated.

Joanne Holmes Redmond and her daughter were special guest visitors. Joan was raised in Eagle Point. She now resides in Cocoa Beach Florida. She brought a large collection of photos of the Brown and Holmes family and donated them to the museum.

The Veterans Domiciallary group visited the museum April 23.

Comments From Our visitors

From our sign-in sheets:

"This museum is an amazing gathering of artifacts and well-displayed. A great historical record of the people and the area."

"The museum is an impressive gathering of historical memorabilia covering the pioneer years to the recent past. Continue your fine work!!"

"The only word that comes to mind is awesome!!"

"We will return—we could stay here all day—so much to see—extremely interesting."

"I've been in a lot of small museums and this is the nicest, neatest, well-kept, best displayed and described that I've seen."

Board Members

Don Reynolds President
Chuck Cobun, Vice President
Larry Vaughn, Treasurer
Carol Reynolds, Secretary
Board Members:
Helen Wolgamott
Ernie Redington
Walt Barker

Barbara Hegne, Curator

Committees

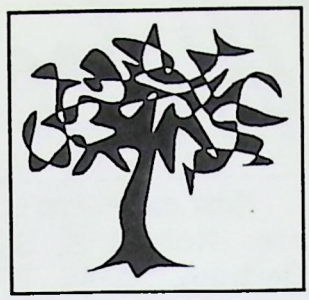
Virginia Cutler, Historical News
Sharon Barker, Volunteers
Betty Bedingfield, Parliamentarian
Norma Kuyper & Don Reynolds, Cemetery
Walt Barker, Building
Helen Wolgamott, Grounds
Amy Dawson, Hostess
Barbara Hegne, Membership

Staff Volunteers:

Nicolina Sherlock
Beryl Hickson
Arlene Hoffman
Midge Harnish
Inita Kaiser
Ernie Redington
Sharon Barker
Walt Barker
Mazie Neece
Helen Wolgamott
Virginia Cutler
Rose Cobun
Sally Corriveau
Carol Reynolds

Membership:
Teens $5.00
Single $7.50
Husband & Wife $12.50
Business $10.00
Lifetime $100

Hours: Winter.
Saturday 10am-4pm
Sunday 1pm-4pm
Tuesday 9am-noon
Other hours by prior arrangement, call Barbara 826-9725



Join Our Family Tree

We are located in the historic district of Eagle Point, Oregon, between the old Antelope Covered bridge and the Butte Creek Mill on North Royal.

Eagle Point Historical Society & Museum
P.O. Box 201
Eagle Point, Oregon
97524

To
Woodville Museum
P. O. Box 1288
Rogue River, Oregon 97537